

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 13 through 26 are pending, with Claims 13 and 19 being independent. Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 through 12 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 2 and 5 were cancelled in the December 5, 2007 Amendment. Claims 13 through 26 have been added.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 through 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over US 2003/0053106 A1 (Kuroda, et al.) in view of US 2003/0123081 A1 (Iwasaki). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 13 and 19 variously recite, *inter alia*, providing, when a virtual printer set to a first output method is designated, a first user interface of the virtual printer by performing a conflict process of functions of the plurality of member printers, and providing, when the virtual printer set to a second output method is designated, a second user interface corresponding to a printer driver of a representative member printer of the plurality of member printers without performing the conflict process.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Kuroda, et al. nor Iwasaki, even in the proposed combination, assuming, *arguendo*, that the documents could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, *inter alia*, in Claims 13 and 19. Applicant also submits that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at such features.

Further, at page 3, the Official Action states that Kuroda, et al. can be applied under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). This statement is respectfully traversed. On December 5, 2007, Applicant respectfully filed a sworn translation of Japanese Patent Appln. No. 2002-378677 filed December 26, 2002, from which the subject application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and which application pre-dates the March 20, 2003 publication date of Kuroda, et al., thereby precluding application of that document under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). MPEP 201.15. (The Official Action compares the subject application's December 12, 2003 U.S. filing date to Kuroda, et al.'s March 20, 2003 publication date, but should compare the subject application's December 26, 2002 priority application filing date to Kuroda, et al.'s March 20, 2003 publication date.) Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Kuroda, et al. does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103. See 35 U.S.C. § 103(c).

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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